

Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 3-8, 11, 14 and 19 as follows:

Sub B1  
A1  
3. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer in step (c) is subjected to ultraviolet light radiation at an intensity of up to 500 milliWatts.

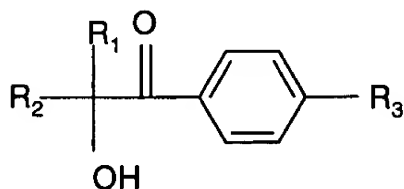
4. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer is formed from acrylamide.

5. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer has an intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g.

6. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer formed by solution polymerisation.

7. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is soluble or dispersible in the aqueous monomer or monomer blend.

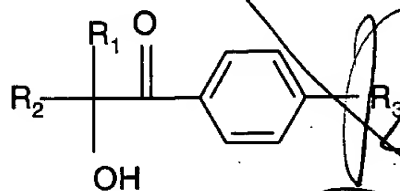
8. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl or together form a  $C_{4-8}$  cycloaliphatic ring,  $R_3$  is H,  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl or  $-O(CH_2CH_2)_nOH$  and  $n$  is 1-20.

A2  
11. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which step (c) is conducted simultaneous with a drying stage.

A3  
14. (amended) A method according to claim 12 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



A3  
 Cont. wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or together form a C<sub>4-8</sub> cycloaliphatic ring, R<sub>3</sub> is H, C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl or -O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH and n is 1-20.

A4 19. (amended) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a process defined by claim 1 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.

Insert new claim 20 as follows:

20. (new) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a method according to claim 12 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.

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